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**RULE OF LAW INSTITUTIONAL
STRENGTHENING PROGRAM (ROLISP)**

REPORT on DEVELOPING DISTANCE LEARNING AT THE NIJ

Rule of Law Institutional Strengthening Program (ROLISP)

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MONITORING REPORT

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Purpose

- Monitoring and assessment of the progress in developing distance learning at the NIJ

1.1 Results / achievements

- At the end of December 2014 USAID ROLISP contracted with two international experts to create the distance learning ToT course that will train NIJ trainers on theoretical knowledge of active-participatory training methodology. One of the experts had the task to design the long distance learning ToT course and work with the NIJ IT staff so that they develop the skills for designing the technical elements of future long distance learning courses and the other had the task to develop the content for the long distance learning ToT course. The consultant developing the content for the ToT distance learning course was released from her contract in April 2015 and the contract of the first consultant was modified to include activities for developing the content as well as the technical elements for the ToT distance learning course.
- The distance learning ToT course involves a facilitator in the course. The main role of facilitator in this course is to support trainees through their learning process. To accomplish this goal, the facilitator need to: provide academic support to trainees, answer their questions related to assignments, content and guidelines, establish assignments deadlines, support and monitor trainees' progress and assignments' completion, monitor discussion forum, coordinate technical support with NIJ team and draft end of training report about overall student experience and feedback.
- Piloting the TOT distance learning course by the NIJ trainers finished on 30 October 2015. USAID ROLISP translated the course materials in Romanian and will submit them to the NIJ. The NIJ IT staff will upload the translated materials to the NIJ DL platform during January - February 2015.
- On 31 March 2015 NIJ's Council approved the NIJ's Plan for distance learning. The plan includes NIJ's offer in DL during 2015 as following:

- a) course on *Psychological aspects and peculiarities of hearing victims of human trafficking*
- b) course on *Preventing corruption in the justice system*
- c) course on *Protection of personal data in courts*
- d) *ToT course that will train NIJ trainers on theoretical knowledge of active-participatory training methodology*
- e) course on *International and national standards on managing migration and asylum*

- The development of a distance learning course by the NIJ is based on 7 steps: identification of training needs, drafting distance learning plan, identification of the trainer that will develop the course content (of the subject matter expert), drafting the DL course development plan, drafting the DL course didactical guide, developing the distance learning course materials, uploading the training materials on the DL platform, testing the developed course, finishing the course development. The enrolled trainees assess the quality of each NIJ DL course by completing an electronic questionnaire.
- At this stage NIJ did not launch yet the course on international and national standards on managing migration and asylum.
- According to the NIJ records the number of users of NIJ e-distance learning platform ILIAS during March – December 2015 is as following:

N/o	Title of the distance course	Active period	Type of justice sector professional	Gender	Status
1.	Psychological aspects and peculiarities of hearing victims of human trafficking	25.03.2015 – 08.05.2015	Judicial Assistant -6	6 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Court clerk -3	3 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judicial Assistant -3	1 (m) 2 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Court clerk -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Senior Specialist -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Chief of Unit -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
2.	Psychological aspects and peculiarities of hearing victims of human trafficking	01.06.2015 – 15.06.2015	Judicial Assistant -2	2 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Court clerk -3	1 (m) 2 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Prosecutors -1	1 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judicial Assistant -2	1 (m) 1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Court clerk -4	2 (m) 2 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Judges -3	1 (m) 2 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
3.	Preventing corruption in the	25.03.2015 –	Judicial Assistant -5	3 (m) 2 (f)	Finished (with certificate)

	justice sector	08.04.2015	Court clerk - 5	1 (m) 4 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Chief of secretariat - 1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Senior specialist, Evidence and Procedural Documentation Department -1	1 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Senior Inspector, Services regarding investigation of accidents with unknown authors -1	1 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judicial Assistant -6	6 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Senior Specialist -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Customer Service agent -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Chief of Unit -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
4.	Preventing corruption in the justice sector	01.06.2015 – 15.06.2015	Judicial Assistant -6	2 (m) 4 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Court clerk -3	2 (m) 1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Prosecutors -2	1 (m) 1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judges -1	1 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Senior Specialist, Public Relations -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Senior Specialist, Civil and administrative legal department - 1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judicial Assistant -3	1 (m) 2 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Court clerk -3	2 (m) 1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Prosecutors -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Judges - 3	1 (m) 2 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Accountant -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Senior Specialist, Department of generalization and systematization of jurisprudence - 1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Senior Specialist -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			NIJ trainee - 1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
5.	Protection of personal	30.03.2015 –	Judicial Assistant -8	8 (f)	Finished (with certificate)

	data in courts	13.04.2015	Court clerk -3	3 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Senior Specialist -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Chief of secretariat - 1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judicial Assistant -2	2 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Court clerk -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Accountant -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Chief of Unit -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
6.	Protection of personal data in courts	01.06.2015 – 15.06.2015	Judicial Assistant -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Court clerk -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Senior Specialist -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Senior Specialist, Public Relations -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Judicial Assistant -4	4 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Court clerk -2	2 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Judges -2	2 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Senior Specialist, Department of generalization and systematization of jurisprudence - 1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
7.	Psychological aspects and peculiarities of hearing victims of human trafficking	29.07.2015 – 12.08.2015	Judicial Assistant -2	1 (f) 1 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Court clerk -4	2 (f) 2 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Prosecutor -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Chief of secretariat - 1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Mediator -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judicial Assistant -6	4 (f) 2 (m)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Court clerk -2	2 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Public Relations Specialist -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Lawyer -1	1 (m)	Unfinished (no certificate)
8.	Preventing corruption in the justice sector	29.07.2015 – 12.08.2015	Judicial Assistant -5	3 (f) 2 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Court clerk - 4	3 (f) 1 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Specialists - 4	2 (f) 2 (m)	Finished (with certificate)

			Judges - 1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Mediator -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Student (Law faculty) -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judicial Assistant -6	5 (f) 1 (m)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Court clerk - 3	3 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Legal adviser - 2	1 (m)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Prosecutors - 2	2 (m)	Unfinished (no certificate)
9.	Protection of personal data in courts	29.07.2015 – 12.08.2015	Judicial Assistant -6	4 (f) 2 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Court clerk -4	3 (f) 1 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Specialist -2	1 (f) 1 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Chief of secretariat -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judge - 1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Mediator - 1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Prosecutor - 1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judicial Assistant -5	3 (f) 2 (m)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Court clerk -1	1 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
10.	Active-participative training methodology (pilot)	06.10.2015 – 15.11.2015	Judge - 2	2 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judicial Assistant -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Trainer -1	1 (f)	Finished (with certificate)
			Prosecutor -1	1 (m)	Finished (with certificate)
			Judge -1	1 (m)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Chief of unit -2	2 (f)	Unfinished (no certificate)
			Prosecutor -1	1 (m)	Unfinished (no certificate)

1.2 Constraints / problems

- The NIJ's leadership has questioned the necessity of facilitator's involvement in the ToT distance learning course because of the NIJ's budgetary constraints.
- The dropout rate in the distance learning courses is high.

- UNDP recently assessed NIJ's development of distance learning courses and determined that in most of the distance learning courses NIJ only digitizes the content of courses. UNDP recommended improving the interactivity of the courses.
- The NIJ IT division includes 3 units. One of the employees of this division resigned in September 2015. NIJ could not find a replacement so far.
- NIJ IT division staff's daily tasks include database maintenance, support in the use of NIJ's IT equipment and IT equipment maintenance. The same staff is involved in DL course development and DL technical support.

1.3 Conclusions

NIJ has made progresses in the development of distance learning. It has developed three distance learning courses during this year and has opened them for enrollment. However NIJ's distance courses interactivity needs to be improved. Also NIJ should include facilitators in the distance courses or develop blended learning educational programs. This approach could reduce the dropout rate in the NIJ distance courses. NIJ needs also to increase its IT staff number in order to be able to perform the entire workload in a timely and qualitatively manner.